Revival of TCIL

*177. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the revival scheme for Tyre Corporation of India Ltd. (TCIL) was sanctioned by BIFR in February, 1996;

(b) whether the same was referred back to BIFR because of the appeal of Central Government before AAIFR;

(c) whether during BIFR hearing on the scheme on the 26th May, 1997, Central Government gave partial consent to the aforesaid scheme;

(d) whether BIFR directed Government to submit the revised scheme by 21st July, 1997;

(e) whether any such scheme has been submitted by the Government; and

(f) if not, the action taken by Government to revive the company?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) BIFR in its hearing held on 14.5.1997 observed that Government of India (GOI) had consented to the reliefs and concessions relating to Kankinara Unit. In the case of Tangra Unit, GOI had given partial consent by not agreeing to the Braided Hose Project.

(d) to (f) The Bench directed GOI to identify a Joint Venture (JV) Partner for TCIL as a whole and send a proposal based on such JV to the Operating Agency by 25.6.97 for their consideration. Pursuant to BIFR's direction, Deptt. of Heavy Industry engaged SBI CAP as Merchant Bankers for locating a suitable JV partner. The offers received for JV formation have been sent by the Department to BIFR. The same are under consideration of BIFR.

Growth rate of exports

*178. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that exports during 1997-98 have been comparatively low as compared to last year and the anticipated export growth has not been achieved;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for this sluggishness' and how Government proposes to tackle this situation now; and

(c) what are the export targets for 1998-99 and what measures are being adopted to ensure that the target so set, are achieved?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) to (c) As per the provisional data received from the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S), the growth rate of exports during 1997-98 was 2.64% in dollar terms and is lower than the growth rate of the previous year. It is also lower than the target for the year 1997-98.

Export performance is influenced inter-alia by international market conditions, export competitiveness of domestic industry, supporting infrastructure facilities, policy framework etc. During 1997-98 exports were affected due to a general slowdown in world trade and especially the recession in many countries in South East Asia, Japan and Germany, supply constriants in some sectors such as agricultural commodities, slow erosion of competitiveness and slow industrial growth.

The target fixed for the year 1998-99 in dollar terms is 20% above the previous year's performance. Quantitatively an export figure of US $ 41 billion is being targeted.

Export Promotion Measures are continuously being taken by Government through changes in policies and procedures for providing an exporter friendly environment, involvement of

States in export Promotion and in consultation with trade and industry. Some of the recent steps taken in this regard include modification in DEPB rates, annoucing of DEPB rates for about 300 new export items preparing a medium term export strategy for growth of exports, launching of Focus Latin American Countries Scheme, strengthening incentive schemes and greater efficiency in policy and procedures.

Take-over of Anant Ram Diary Complex

*179. Shri GAYA SINGH:
SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:

Will the MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to take over the controversial Anant Ram Dairy Complex, an unauthorised colony of influential politicians and bureaucrats; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard and what follow-up action is being taken to complete the process of take over?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) and (b) Physical possession of the land measuring 16 bighas and 5 biswas of Village Mohammedpur, Munirka, on as is where is basis, was taken over by CPWD from Land Acquisition Collector on 9-5-1998. As per the preliminary survey conducted by the Government, there are 152 occupants including 3 religious shrines. 11 plots were still vacant and 2 to 3 flats were under construction where basements have been dug. It has been decided to hear the occupants before taking a final decision on further steps to be taken. Notices were served upon the occupants asking them to indicate if they claimed any lawful title to the plot or the construction thereon and furnish evidence in support thereof or indicate if they had any other excuse to continue to remain on the property. Replies from some of the occupants have been received which are being processed for further action.

Condition of Destitute Children

*180. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a conference on Children's Rights and Fifty years of Independence, organised by the Child labour Action Network was held in the Capital on Saturday, August 9, 1997;

(b) if so, the main observations and recommendations made therein to alleviate the conditions of destitute children, especially the child labour; and

(c) what steps have been taken/are being taken in the 50th year of Independence to improve the lot of destitute children?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) A short discussion was organised by Child Labour Action Network, a Non Governmental Organisation, on 9 August, 1997 to mark the release of their report on "The State of the Child in India-An Overview on the 50th Year of Independence."

(b) The main observations and recommendations made during the discussion on destitute children and child labour related to the review of the Juvenile Justice Act 1986, and Eradication of Child Labour.

(c) In order to improve the lot of destitute children in the country the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has a Scheme for Welfare of Street Children and another Scheme for Prevention and Control of Juvenile Maladjustment which seeks to facilitate the implementation on the Juvenile Justice Act, 1986 in the country.